

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 03169 072123Z

64

ACTION EA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-10 NSC-07 NSCE-00 INR-10

CIAE-00 PM-03 L-02 PRS-01 SP-02 DRC-01 RSC-01 /059 W

----- 029626

R 070300Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8749

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 3169

LIMDIS

NOFORN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP PINS, NZ, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET EXODUS IN WAKE OF SUTCH ARREST

REF WELLINGTON 3061

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN THE WAKE OF GNZ DENIALS THAT ANY FOREIGN DIPLOMATS HAD BEEN ASKED TO LEAVE, SOVIET EMBASSY DRIVER PERTSEV AND WIFE DEPARTED NEW ZEALAND IN COMPANY OF TWO DIPLOMATIC COURIERS OCTOBER 4. WELL-REPORTED DEPARTURE WAS NOT LINKED BY PRESS TO SUTCH CASE DUE TO NZ TOUGH LIBEL LAWS. END SUMMARY.

2. ON THE HEELS OF A DENIAL BY ACTING PRIME MINISTER TIZARD THAT THE GNZ HAD ASKED ANY FOREIGN MISSION STAFF TO DEPART THE COUNTRY, SOVIET EMBASSY DRIVER VITALY FROLEVICH PERTSEV, DESCRIBED BY THE PRESS AS QUOTE SWEAT-STAINED AND WINDBLOWN UNQUOTE AND HIS WIFE DEPARTED WELLINGTON IN THE COMPANY OF TWO RUSSIAN COURIERS VIA
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PAGE 02 WELLIN 03169 072123Z

AIR NEW ZEALAND ON OCT 4 ENROUTE TO MOSCOW.

3. PERTSEV WAS PRESENT WHEN DR. WILLIAM SUTCH WAS ARRESTED (REFTEL) AND HIS DEPARTURE FOLLOWS THE SCENARIO WHICH GNZ OFFICIALS HOPED WOULD DEVELOP..VOLUNTARY DEPARTURE RATHER THAN DECLARATION OF PNG. FACT THAT PERSEV HAD NO DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY UNDOUBTEDLY WAS PRIME CONSIDERATION IN HIS HASTY DEPARTURE. SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICER RAZGOVOROV REMAINS IN SECLUSION WITH NO INDICATION WHETHER HE MAY FOLLOW PERTSEV. AS OCT 18, DATE OF SUTCH TRIAL, GROWS CLOSER PRESSURE WILL BE ON RAZOVOROV TO LEAVE BEFORE BEING NAMED IN CONNECTION WITH THE ARREST.

4. THE STORY WAS FRONT-PAGED IN ALL THE MAJOR NEWSPAPERS BUT, IN A DEMONSTRATION OF THE POWER AND RESPECT GIVEN THE OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT AND LIBEL LAWS OF NEW ZEALAND, THE SUTCH CASE WAS NEITHER MENTIONED NOR ALLUDED TO IN ANY OF THE REPORTS OF THE SOVIET DEPARTURE.

5. THE DEPARTURE WAS HANDLED IN HAM-HANDED FASHIONBY GNZ AND SOVIET OFFICIALS. EVEN AFTER THE PRESS WAS AWARE THAT PERSEVS WERE DEPARTING THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MFA, AND POLICE DECLINED COMMENT AND THE SOVIET EMBASSY AT FIRST DENIED ANYONE WAS DEPARTING OTHER THAN THE COURIERS; THEN ADMITTED THAT PERSEVS WERE LEAVING AT THE END OF A NORMAL TOUR OF DUTY.
KILLGORE

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